

Providing Safe and Drug Free Schools/Keeping Guns Out of Our Schools

America's students cannot be expected to learn to high standards if they are threatened by drugs and violence. There is a high level of concern by parents and students about school safety and violence caused in part by the tragic shootings at Columbine High School and other schools in the past two years.

The legislation will increase funding for the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act, and enhance its accountability and performance through the adoption of research-based programs. It also authorizes the Secretary of Education to set aside \$5 million annually to fund strong, community-based hate crime prevention activities.

The bill requires school districts, with a history of suspensions and expulsions for gun violence or possession, to work with law enforcement agencies to promote the use of child safety locks.

Lastly, the bill provides new, additional support for school-based alternative education programs to address the educational needs of students who are suspended or expelled from school. This authority will increase the safety of both our schools and communities by ensuring that discipline and violence problems leading to suspensions and expulsions do not spill over into the community.

Recruiting and Maintaining High Quality Teachers

The Safe and Successful Schools Act of 2000 requires all teachers to become certified or fully licensed, and have knowledge of the subjects they teach. The bill creates a "Parent Right to Know" requirement to ensure that parents are made aware of the professional qualifications and expertise of their children's teacher. It also includes a provision requiring that parents be notified when their child is being taught by an underqualified or substitute teacher for more than two consecutive weeks.

It also authorizes \$50 million to help high-poverty school districts attract and retain teachers and principals through better pay. To become eligible, schools would have to undertake rigorous peer review of every teacher, improve systems to remove low-performing teachers, and provide intensive support to give the opportunity for all teachers to succeed.

*Expanding Access to Education Technology/
Closing the Digital Divide*

Technology in the schools can substantially improve student learning, classroom management, the professional development of teachers, and assessment of student progress. Most importantly, strong school technology programs report significant impact on gains in student achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics. Technology has its greatest impact with low-income and rural students as well as with expanding opportunities for girls. Unfortunately, the "digital divide" still separates the technology haves and the technology have-nots—leaving our most disadvantaged children without vital knowledge and tools to compete with their more advantaged peers.

The Safe and Successful Schools Act of 2000 increases the Federal commitment to technology and closing the digital divide. The Act provides \$500 million for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund program, to help the most disadvantaged school districts to provide educators with sustained, high quality training to integrate technology in their classrooms and provide students with the latest access to advantaged technology resources. The Act creates a \$50 million Go

Girls program to help encourage the ongoing interest in girls in science, mathematics and technology, and prepare girls to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees and careers in science, mathematics, or technology. The bill will provide new support for restructuring teacher education programs so that new teachers are proficient in the use of educational technologies and can integrate technology throughout their instructional practices. Lastly, it also creates new initiatives to develop and expand cutting edge technologies to improve teaching and learning, and to establish community technology centers in the neediest communities.

**HONORING THE LOS ANGELES
VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER**

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a very important organization, the Los Angeles Veterans Resource Center. The Vet Center is currently celebrating its twentieth year of providing services to local veterans.

For twenty years the Los Angeles Veterans Resource Center has provided outstanding service to our nation's veterans and their families. The Vet Center Program was established in 1979 out of recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and part of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. They provide a number of important programs and services to assist veterans, particularly those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

I thank the staff and volunteers of the Los Angeles Veterans Resource Center for the invaluable services they have provided to community veterans over the past 20 years. As a veteran of the Vietnam War, I thank them for their contributions. You have touched the lives of many. The veteran community of Los Angeles is grateful for your services. I wish you continued success.

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I support H.R. 4163, the "Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2000." Last month when the House Ways and Means Committee considered this bill, I raised concerns about the apparent lack of oversight of State taxing authorities that use Federal tax return information.

This bill recognizes breaches of taxpayer confidentiality at the State level and contains a provision to require that States conduct on-site reviews of all contractors receiving Federal tax return information. However, this bill does not address instances in which state agencies may have inappropriately disclosed Federal tax information. In a recent study on taxpayer confidentiality, the Joint Committee on Taxation found that "[A]lmost all of the surveyed State taxing authorities reported some

discrepancy of one type or another [in their efforts to safeguard tax return information]."

I have personally heard stories from taxpayers about how my state's taxing authority, the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB), has misused and inappropriately disclosed Federal tax information. Some examples include making IRS tax returns public without the consent of the taxpayer and using the threat of disclosure as a tool to try to force taxpayers into concessions. I have even been told that the State's training materials encourage misuse of penalties and other types of inappropriate behavior.

In my current position on the House Ways and Means Committee, I plan to do my utmost to ensure that States like my State of California are fully accountable for the privacy of its citizens. I hope to work with other Members of Congress to improve H.R. 4163 by requiring more safeguards and oversight of State taxing authorities' use of Federal tax information.

**TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WARRANT
OFFICER JOHN W. SCOTT, JR.**

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the outstanding service to our Nation of Chief Warrant Officer John W. Scott, Jr., the commanding officer of Coast Guard Station Sabine Pass, Texas, who will be relieved of command on May 5, 2000, as he retires after 31 years in the Coast Guard. Throughout his career, he exemplified the Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. He is a highly respected leader who is renowned for his commitment to the Coast Guard men and women serving under his command.

Chief Warrant Officer Scott has lived the multi-mission character of the Coast Guard. Very early in his career, he had to face the stark reality that the Coast Guard is an armed force when he was assigned to serve on a patrol boat in Vietnam. His career is also ripe with examples of dedicated services to the mariner. He served many tours ensuring the safety of maritime commerce by maintaining aids to navigation in our critical waterways. Additionally, he operated and commanded boats, cutters and shore stations that rescued people in distress, responded to environmental threats and maritime disasters, and ensured the security of our ports. Moreover, he enforced federal laws that enhanced vessel safety, deterred unlawful activity that threatened our national security, and brought those that had violated our laws to justice.

Over the past four years while he has been in command of Coast Guard Station Sabine Pass, I have seen firsthand the remarkable results of his efforts. During this period, Chief Warrant Officer Scott directed over 700 search and rescue cases that resulted in saving the lives of 400 people. He directed numerous maritime law enforcement missions to deter and intercept illegal narcotics and other contraband destined for Southeast Texas shores. He initiated operations that preserved our valuable natural resources and fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. He achieved these results by instilling his vision of excellence in his crew,

and through the seamless integration of active duty and reserve Coast Guard personnel into a cohesive team. At the same time, he also managed a comprehensive shoreline modernization project to rehabilitate several existing station buildings and to construct new waterfront facilities that will ensure the Coast Guard remains a robust part of the Sabine community for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Warrant Officer Scott dedicated his life to our Coast Guard men and women and our Nation. I am extremely honored that he and his wife, Judy, have decided to remain in Southeast Texas after his retirement. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Chief Warrant Officer Scott, an individual who has stood *Semper Paratus*—Always Ready—for the past 31 years to answer our Nation's call.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR
KENNETH T. PALMER

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Professor Kenneth T. Palmer of the Department of Political Science at my alma mater, the University of Maine. I was fortunate to study under Professor Palmer, and learned many a lesson in politics from him.

Today, I want to thank him for one of the extra-curricular responsibilities he has taken on in addition to his teaching. For 31 years, Professor Palmer has coordinated the University of Maine's Washington Congressional Internship Program, which has been a rich source of interns for the Maine Congressional Delegation since 1958.

Ken Palmer has played a crucial role in the program's success. His oversight of the selection has helped to guarantee high quality interns who have made important contributions to our offices.

Approximately 150 University of Maine students have taken part in the program since its inception. I have been fortunate to have the assistance of 5 able University of Maine interns during my tenure here. Two of them have gone on to join my staff, which speaks highly of the caliber of students Professor Palmer has selected to participate.

I am told that many former interns report that the five months they spent in Washington constituted the most significant learning experience in their undergraduate careers. Graduates of the program have distinguished themselves in various careers, especially law, business, and public service.

Recently, Ken Palmer announced that he will be stepping down from his post and handing the reins over to another professor. He leaves large shoes to fill.

I am pleased to congratulate Professor Palmer on all that he has achieved with the Congressional Internship Program. He has set a fine example for other academic institutions to follow.

HONORING CHARLES F. RYAN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a longtime friend and colleague, Charles F. Ryan, who will be inducted as President of the Bergen County Bar Association Friday, May 5, 2000. This is another milestone in Chuck's outstanding career, which is distinguished by his constant dedication to using his expertise in the law to improve the lives of people throughout Bergen County, New Jersey.

After serving three years of active duty in the United States Marine Corps where he rose to the rank of Sergeant, Chuck pursued a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Notre Dame. Chuck then came home to New Jersey, where he earned his law degree at Rutgers University.

Ever the activist, Chuck involved himself in the Young Lawyers Section of the Bergen County Bar Association, first as a member and later as its president. For four years, Chuck also co-edited the Young Lawyer Section's publication, *Hearsay*. The success of *Hearsay* led the Bergen County Bar Association to establish its own newspaper, *Barrister*, for which Chuck has been a valued contributor and author of the "Family Law/Around the Courthouse" column.

One common denominator in Chuck's work is that he constantly strives to expand access to the legal system and make it work better for those involved. Chuck represented the Bergen County Bar Association for five years on the Board of Directors of Bergen County Legal Services, and helped develop the Legal Services Board's annual Pro Bono Award Program which recognizes the contributions to the public good made by lawyers and law firms in the Bergen County.

In this same vein, Chuck founded the Alternatives to Domestic Violence Lawyers Referral Panel 14 years ago, and he remains a coordinator on the panel to this day. Chuck gathered lawyers from throughout Bergen County practicing matrimonial law, with particular experience and knowledge in the area of domestic violence, to provide emergency consultation and representation to victims of domestic violence. These lawyers agree to accept no fees, or work on a sliding-scale fee, according to the ability of the client to pay. With this expertise, the Bergen County Bar Association tapped Chuck two years ago to establish and co-chair the Bergen County Domestic Violence Pro Bono Lawyers Project, which has recruited and trained 89 lawyers to represent domestic violence victims. Fittingly, Chuck was honored last year by both the New Jersey State Senate and the New Jersey General Assembly for his tireless efforts on behalf of victims of domestic violence.

Though these accomplishments testify to Chuck's efforts in the professional arena, he is also an active member of the Bergen County community. Chuck is married and is the father of four children, and works in both private practice and as a prosecutor in Park Ridge, New Jersey. He is a former Commander of the Midland Park/Wyckoff Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7086, and is Director of the Mid-

land Park Chamber of Commerce. Chuck has also been a coach on the Midland Park Soccer, Little League Baseball, Little League Softball, and Girls Basketball teams, and has served as a guest lecturer on family law at Montclair State College and Rutgers Law School.

Mr. Speaker I have been fortunate to know and work with Chuck Ryan for the past 20 years and I am proud to count him as a dear friend. I wish him the best of luck on his induction as President of the Bergen County Bar Association, and expect him to thrive in that position as he has in every other task he has taken on in his life.

TRIBUTE TO JANET R. HENKE

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and great pleasure today to recognize the extensive service of the Honorable Janet R. Henke to the people of the City of Whittier. Janet Henke has long been an active and dedicated member of the community and for the past eight years has served as a member of the Whittier City Council, including one two-year term as mayor from 1996 to 1998.

Councilwoman Henke has a long history of involvement in education and the arts. Through the Whittier Presbyterian Church, she served as a youth choir director for twenty-two years, starting in 1960, and as the preschool music director for seven years. From 1977 to 1986, Mrs. Henke worked for the Montebello Unified School District.

Janet Henke's community service has included serving as a program chair of the PTA; Ruling Elder of the Whittier Presbyterian Church; member of the Friends of the Whittier Hills; Co-Vice-President and President of the Whittier Area Education Study Council; President of the Shelters Right Hand; and as a director on the boards of the YMCA, Rio Hondo Temporary Home and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts.

For sixteen years from 1973 to 1989, Mrs. Henke served as a trustee on the Whittier City School Board. She served as vice president of the board for three years and another three years as president. Mrs. Henke's recognized commitment to education was further evidenced by being elected four times, from 1978 to 1985, to serve in the Delegate Assembly of the California School Board Association.

Mr. Speaker, it takes dedicated individuals who are committed to serving their community—individuals like Janet R. Henke—to build strong, vibrant, livable towns and cities. The people of Whittier are indeed fortunate to have enjoyed the benefits of decades of generous public service by this outstanding American and leader. I am proud of my friendship with Janet, and extend to her the best wishes for every continued happiness and fulfillment.